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20 February 1961

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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE BULLETIN



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DAILY BRIEF

Congo: The situation of the Gizenga regime in Stanleyville continues to be chaotic. Press sources hint that Chief of Staff Lundula may be about to negotiate with Mobutu.

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*Laos: King Savang's speech on 19 February reaffirmed Lao-tian neutrality and called for an end to foreign intervention. The King expressed the hope that Cambodia, Burma, and Malaya would form a commission to come to Laos and "establish that the country threatens no one and aspires solely to peace." Although it is too early for reports of international reaction to have been received, the Pathet Lao radio, in an anticipatory denunciation of the neutral

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nations commission proposal, on 18 February termed it merely another US device to avoid reconvening the 1954 Geneva Conference or holding Cambodian Prince Sihanouk's proposed 14-nation conference on Laos.

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~~SECRET~~Situation in the Congo:

The internal situation in the Congo continues to pre-occupy other African governments. Ghana President Nkrumah's proposed all-African command [redacted]

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[redacted] obtaining its endorsement in principle early in January at the Casablanca conference of chiefs of state of Ghana, Guinea, Mali, Morocco, and the UAR. Ceylon and Libya were represented by observers at Casablanca. The five so-called Casablanca powers have all recognized the Gizenga regime and, except for Ghana, have withdrawn their troops from the UN Command in the Congo.

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Meanwhile, Moscow is continuing to avoid direct criticism or comment on US policy on the Congo question--an apparent attempt to cushion the impact on US-Soviet relations of the USSR's extreme demands for a Congo solution. Soviet propaganda treatment of both the President's press conference statement on the Congo and Ambassador Stevenson's speech at the UN acknowledges that the US and Soviet positions are sharply opposed. Moscow refrains, however, from

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implicating the US by name in its attacks against Belgium, Hammarskjold, and the Congolese leaders. Implied criticisms of the US are conveyed only in references to Belgium's NATO allies and by some quotations from foreign press sources.

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Unrest May Be Spreading in Portuguese Africa

Portugal's East African province of Mozambique is not now experiencing unrest similar to that in Angola, but nationalist-inspired disorders occurred last summer in the northern part of the province, bordering on Tanganyika. Tribesmen reportedly attacked Portuguese administrative posts and staged large demonstrations in several areas. While most of the tribesmen were armed with their traditional weapons, some of them may have been carrying modern firearms

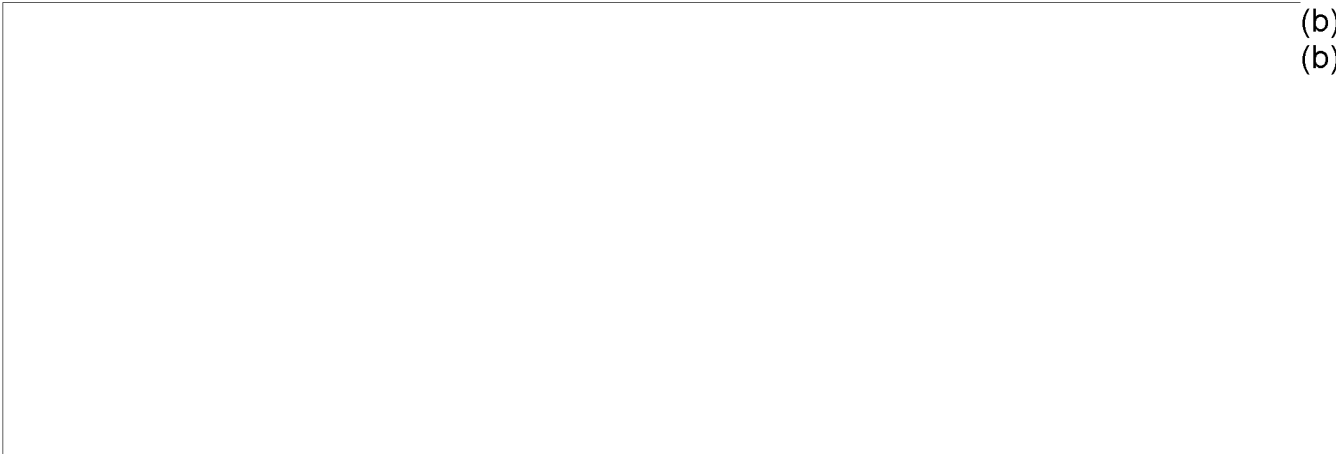
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The Mozambique government has been particularly concerned over the inflammatory effect of foreign radiobroadcasts. Radio Peiping announced last October that it was scheduling seven hours of Portuguese-language broadcasts per week to Africa and described the Portuguese provinces as "the darkest areas" of Africa. Furthermore, there is fear that thousands of Africans returning from work in the Rhodesias and South Africa might spark extremist nationalist movements.

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~~CONFIDENTIAL~~Racial Disorders Threaten Northern Rhodesia

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[The breakup of the conference on 19 February was brought about by the inability of the British, Africans, and Rhodesian whites to reconcile their differences over the terms of the new constitution for Northern Rhodesia. African leaders such as Kenneth Kaunda, president of the United National Independence party, and Harry Nkumbula, leader of the rival African National Congress, have demanded that Britain give the Africans a majority of the seats in both the Legislative and Executive Councils. There are over 2,000,000 Africans as compared with some 75,000 Europeans in the country, but the Africans have only nine members out of 30 on the Legislative Council and two of 10 on the Executive Council.]

[White settlers, on the other hand, have strenuously opposed any such increase of African influence. Prime Minister Welensky of the Federation of Rhodesia and Nyasaland has stated that Southern Rhodesia--a self-governing colony under settler control--might secede from the federation if Britain granted the Africans' demands.]

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[A] franchise is envisaged for Southern Rhodesia, where it has received support from moderate African]

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[nationalist groups. However, the nationalists are better organized and more extremist in the protectorate of Northern Rhodesia, where native leaders are greatly influenced by the recent political advances of African groups in Nyasaland.]

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Hanoi Expands Subversive Apparatus in South Vietnam

The boast [redacted] that Diem could be overthrown in 1961--has also been made by high-ranking North Vietnamese officials. [redacted]

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[redacted] The Communists evidently feel that the presidential elections scheduled for April will provide excellent opportunities for stepped-up political and paramilitary action.

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The Communist strategy for the moment is apparently to emphasize propaganda activities, inspire popular demonstrations, and promote small-scale violence, but to avoid tests of strength with South Vietnamese regular military units. Since the end of December, Communist-initiated clashes have generally been confined to small-scale hit-and-run terrorist attacks, harassment of village offices and security posts, kidnappings, and murders. "Tax" collections from the peasants during the current rice harvest are helping to finance much of the Communist program.

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